



Fiscal Year 2004

Resourceful Management of Our Natural Resources

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land — 262 million surface acres — than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 western States, including Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the Nation. The BLM's multiple use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Our public lands contribute in many different ways to the quality of life we enjoy in this country. They provide opportunities for recreation and outdoor adventure. They contribute to the vitality and economic strength of local communities and to our national economy through traditional activities such as ranching, mining, timber production and oil and gas production. And they offer important environmental values that must be preserved, including clean air, clean water, and healthy habitat for plant and animal life.

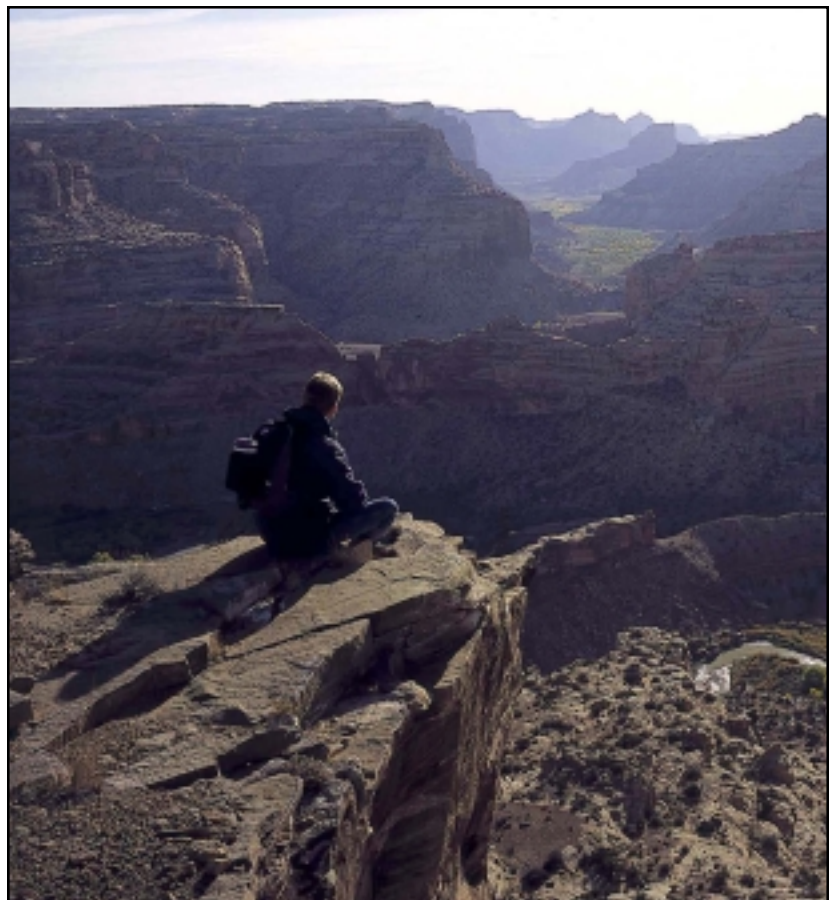
The BLM's multiple use mission is rooted in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). This law provides the foundation to make decisions that satisfy a range of needs. Providing direction to the BLM for more than a quarter of a century, FLPMA guides the decisions that agency employees make every day. For example, as population growth has raised public interest in uses such as recreation on BLM lands, FLPMA allows the agency to balance these values with traditional uses such as livestock grazing. By working with local communities, the agency ensures that citizens can participate and

influence management decisions for public lands near where they live and work.

By using Secretary Norton's Four Cs philosophy of communication, cooperation, and consultation—all in the service of conservation—we involve the people who live on, work on, and love the land to help us meet the challenges and share the rewards.

Under the President's proposed budget, the BLM will focus its funding in the following areas:

Resource Protection: The Bureau is proud of its mission and understands why it is critical to our Nation's future. The Bureau's vision is to achieve our goals of being capable stewards of the public lands and thereby meet the needs of the lands and the American people.



“The BLM is more committed than ever to our multiple use mission. With this 2004 budget request, we will better be able to address issues that arise from diverse uses of BLM-managed public lands.”

—BLM Director
Kathleen Clarke

The 2004 budget request includes a \$5.3 million increase to strengthen the BLM’s resource protection capabilities, including an increase of \$2 million for the Bureau’s successful Challenge Cost Share partnerships. The request will enable the Bureau to improve the health of landscapes and watersheds, and to manage, protect, and restore important fish and wildlife habitats. Within that amount, \$1 million is requested for Bureau-wide efforts to further monitor and assess the effectiveness of the BLM’s management decisions over time.



lines, which are critical to our economic and national security infrastructure.

The 2004 request includes \$3.6 million in funds to promote energy development on public lands and to monitor the effects of energy production over time. The request builds on increases in the 2002 and 2003 budgets for continued implementation of the National Energy Policy.

•Nation’s geothermal production from BLM Lands: 48%

•Nation’s installed wind power capacity from BLM lands: 20%

•Nation’s coal production from Federal lands: 35%

•Nation’s gas production from Federal lands: 11%

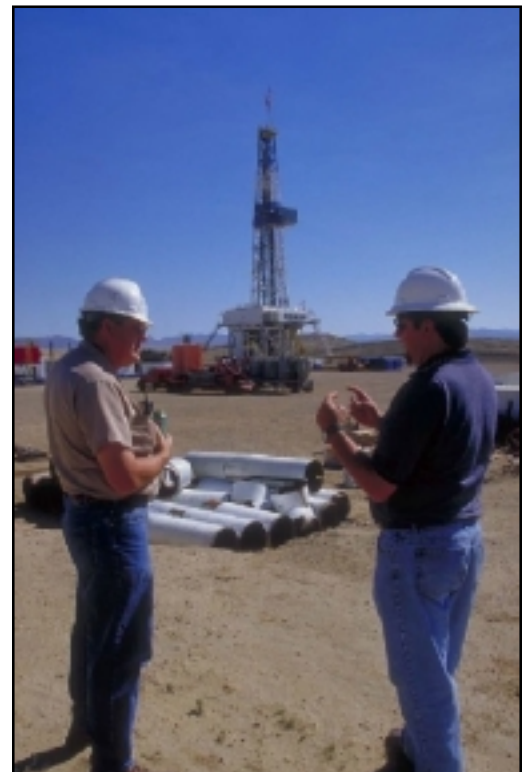
•Nation’s oil production from Federal lands: 5%

Resource Use: The President’s National Energy Policy aims to enhance America’s energy program and national security by reducing our dependence on imported oil. The policy entails a comprehensive strategy that includes promoting renewable energy development, increasing energy conservation, and increasing the production of domestic fossil energy resources. The BLM has a major role to play in the successful achievement of the National Energy Policy goals by virtue of the abundant and diverse energy resources found on the public lands it manages.

“We have both the ability and the responsibility to help meet our country’s energy needs in an environmentally responsible way.”

—BLM Director
Kathleen Clarke

The BLM is currently working on tasks to carry out the President’s National Energy Policy. The actions will help provide both short - and long-term solutions to increase energy supplies while protecting the environment. The Nation’s public lands produce 35 percent of our coal, large quantities of oil and gas, as well as geothermal and other renewable forms of energy. Further, the public lands provide portions of almost all of the West’s critical rights-of-way for pipelines and transmission



The BLM's forestry management programs will receive a \$2.5 million increase. The Bureau will use the funds to conduct commercial timber thinning sales and other treatments to improve the condition and productivity of forests and woodlands, and to provide economic opportunities for local communities.

Recreation: Americans are increasingly looking to the BLM to fulfill their outdoor recreation needs. This trend will only continue, a function of the large population growth in the western United States that is causing city limits and suburbs to creep closer and closer to BLM-administered public lands. In many areas, the dynamics of urban-suburban sprawl have left BLM lands as virtually the only place available for outdoor enthusiasts.

The BLM realizes that when looking at recreation we must understand the far-reaching personal, social, and economic benefits and values that BLM outdoor recreation landscapes and programs provide to Americans and foreign

visitors. The Bureau intends to involve our communities and constituents in a collaborative effort to create a strategy that not only responds to diverse needs, but allows all interested parties to be involved.

For 2004, the BLM is proposing a net increase of \$5.3 million to provide expanded and improved yet environmentally sustainable recreational opportunities. These funds will enable the BLM to undertake a number of efforts—including public outreach, consultation, partnership building, and better visitor services—to improve the overall visitor experience while protecting vital natural and cultural resources. Additionally, the funds will improve the BLM's ability to resolve contentious user conflicts, and to monitor the effects of recreational uses on the public lands.



Serving Communities: The Administration and the BLM is committed to implementing the National Fire Plan and reducing the loss of life and property and environmental damage caused by unwanted wildland fires. The 2004 budget request, for the wildland Fire program, represents a \$45 million increase over the Administration's 2003 budget level. The President's Healthy Forests Initiative will complement the National Fire Plan by reducing regulatory obstacles and allowing more effective and timely actions.

The Interior Department's 2004 budget includes a \$35 million increase from the amount requested in the 2003 budget for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT). Since payments are made on behalf of most Federal lands that cannot be taxed by local governments, not just BLM-managed lands, the 2004 budget would shift the PILT appropriation from the BLM to the Department of the Interior.

"Good stewardship of the environment is not just a personal responsibility, it is a public value. ... Our duty is to use the land well, and sometimes not to use it at all. This is our responsibility as citizens, but more than that, it is our calling as stewards of the earth."

— President
George W. Bush



